THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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Nearly three years ago, the Cleveland Museum of Art commissioned English art historian Hugh Honour to put together a Bicentennial exhibition that would concentrate on the idea of America not as we have experienced it but as others have envisioned it.

This week, the 350 works gathered by Honour from 50 collections in a dozen countries arrived in Cleveland. They were delivered by van from Washington, D.C., where The European Vision of America premiered at the National Gallery of Art last December.

The exhibition, which opens in Cleveland on May 5, includes paintings by

Turner, Delacroix and Goya as well as a wide range of sculptures, drawings, prints,

maps, books, furniture, tapestries and silver work.

The show covers 400 years of European interpretations of the New World and includes the spectacular 4-1/2 feet high America, a silver, jewel-encrusted sculpture by Lorenzo Vacarro. America is on loan from the Cathedral Treasury of Toledo, Spain, and has never before been exhibited outside the Cathedral.

During the National Gallery showing, the exhibition was widely praised by many national art critics for its imagination and the fresh perspective it gives of our nation's history.

The European Vision of America will be at the Cleveland Museum through August 8. Free admission to the exhibition has been made possible by a grant from Central National Bank of Cleveland.

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